

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 0685

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS: MORO COMPLETE FIRST ROUND
OF MEETINGS WITH THE PARTIES

REF: (A) ROME 607 (B) ROME 524

1. PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE MORO COMPLETED FIRST ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTIES TODAY (JANUARY 15). AT MEETING WITH PSI, SOCIALISTS PRESENTED THEIR HASTILY ASSEMBLED ECONOMIC PROPOSALS ON WHICH MORO REPORTEDLY RESERVED COMMENT UNTIL AFTER HE HAS HAD TIME TO STUDY THEM.

2. DEMARTINO CONFIRMED TO PRESS FOLLOWING MEETING THAT HE HAD REAFFIRMED PSI DEMAND FOR A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY OPEN TO THE LEFT, AND CLARIFIED THAT THIS MEANT ONE WHICH ASSURES FOR ITSELF THE SUPPORT OF THE PCI. ANOTHER DELEGATION MEMBER, SENATOR ZUCCALA, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT MORO'S OPENING PROPOSAL -- THE FORMATION OF A FOUR-PARTY CENTER-LEFT COALITION -- HAS LITTLE OR NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS. HE ADDED THAT THE SOCIALISTS STAND READY TO CONSIDER OTHER DC PROPOSALS.

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3. IN CONFORMITY WITH PSI TACTICS OUTLINED REFTTEL, SOCIAL-

IST AUTHORS OF ECONOMIC COUNTER-PROPOSALS MET WITH UNIONS THIS MORNING, AND DEMARTINO IS MEETING LATE THIS AFTERNOON WITH PRESIDENT OF CONFINDUSTRIA AGNELLI.

4. COMMENT: THOUGH MOST SIGNS CONTINUE TO POINT TO A LONG AND DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION, A RELATIVELY SWIFT BUILDUP TO A CLIMAX CANNOT BE EXCLUDED. DC SEEMS TO BE MAKING A CALCULATED EFFORT TO GIVE SOCIALISTS THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY MUST COME TO TERMS WITH MORO OR ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR EARLY ELECTIONS. SOCIALIST SOURCE STATES THAT HIS PARTY'S DELEGATION SO INTERPRETS LEONE'S UNCHARACTERISTICALLY CURT TREATMENT OF IT, AND HIGHLY REGARDED OBSERVERS IN PRESS COMMENT THAT DC SEEMS TO BE "BURNING THE GROUND BEHIND MORO." OBSERVERS NOT IN EVIDENCE THAT DC INCLUDED NO OTHER CANDIDATES IN MAKING ITS NOMINATION TO LEONE, IN CONTRAST TO NORMAL PRACTICE, AND THAT MORO HAS AN UNUSUALLY FLEXIBLE MANDATE FROM THE PARTY. VOLPE

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